

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCA30959KIST	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/KR2004/000156	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 JANUARY 2004 (29.01.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 17 SEPTEMBER 2003 (17.09.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC7 C07C 41/01			
Applicant KOREA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY et al			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

- (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
- (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____ containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the report
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 APRIL 2005 (18.04.2005)	Date of completion of this report 26 SEPTEMBER 2005 (26.09.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea	Authorized officer MOON, Sun Heup Telephone No. 82-42-481-5543
Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/KR2004/000156

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- the international application as originally filed/furnished
- the description:
pages _____ 1 - 14 as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ NONE received by this Authority on _____
- the claims:
pages _____ 15 - 16 as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages* _____ NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ NONE received by this Authority on _____
- the drawings:
pages _____ 1/1 as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ NONE received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ NONE received by this Authority on _____
- the sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages _____
 - the claims, Nos. _____
 - the drawings, sheets _____
 - the sequence listing (*specify*) : _____
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*) : _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- the description, pages _____
 - the claims, Nos. _____
 - the drawings, sheets _____
 - the sequence listing (*specify*) : _____
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*) : _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 9	YES
	Claims	NONE	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D3 : JP 10-182533 A

2. Novelty and Inventive Step

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to a method for producing dimethylether(DME) comprising i)introducing a feed gas mixture containing hydrogen and CO to a DME synthesis to provide a crude product stream containing DME and CO₂, ii)separating the crude product stream into a CO₂ rich stream and a DME rich stream, iii)introducing the CO₂ rich stream to a reverse water gas shift(RWGS) reactor wherein it is reacted with hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst to provide a CO rich stream, and iv)recycling the CO rich stream to step(i).

Document D3, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses the reuse of CO₂ gas to be converted back to CO gas in the process of producing DME.

Although D3 relates to a method for reuse of CO₂ gas in the process of producing DME, D3 is different from claim 1 of the present invention in that D3 does not suggest any RWGS reactor and oxide catalysts to provide the CO gas stream from a large amount of CO₂ gas generated during the manufacturing process of DME. Moreover, the RWGS reactor and the composite oxide catalyst of the present invention are not easily exchangeable or not expectable by those who are skilled in the art.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is considered to be novel and to involve an inventive step in the sense of PCT Article (2) and (3).

Claims 2-9 of the present invention, which are dependent on claim 1, are also novel and inventive under PCT Article (2) and (3).

3. Industrial Applicability

There is no reason for denying industrial applicability of the present invention under PCT Article 33(4).